

Appl. No. 10/737,002
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-7 and 12-18 are allowed. Claims 8 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 9-11 and 22-24 have been objected to. Claims 8, 9, 11, 19, 22, and 24 have been amended. Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-19 and 22-24 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the third and fourth ratchet elements as cited in claim 20 must be shown or the features must be cancelled from the claims.

Claim 20, as indicated above, has been cancelled, thereby rendering the Examiner's objection to the drawings based on claim 20 moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of alleged various informalities and has required appropriate correction.

Applicants have reviewed the alleged informalities as pointed out by the Examiner and have made the requested changes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 9-11 and 20-24 because of alleged various informalities and has required appropriate correction.

As indicated above, claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the Examiner's objection to claim 20 moot.

Applicants have reviewed the alleged informalities as pointed out by the Examiner. With regard to claims 9 and 22, the Examiner alleges that "the interior housing" should read -- the housing --. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the term "the interior housing" should actually read -- the interior cavity --. Applicants have accordingly amended claims 9 and 22 to read as such. Support for such an amendment is found in paragraph 24 of the application as filed.

With regard to the remaining objectionable claims, Applicants have made the requested changes. Applicants accordingly respectfully request that all the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

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Claims 8 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the claims contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time of the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled as indicated above, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 8 and 19 have been amended to remove the word "asymmetrical" and to recite the second ratchet elements as "forming notches." Support for the second ratchet elements forming notches is found in FIG. 2A of the drawings. In particular, the second ratchet elements (shown at 70) form notches therebetween along the length of the outer surface of the piston body 60.

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8 and 19 therefore comply with the written description requirement within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8 and 19 be withdrawn.

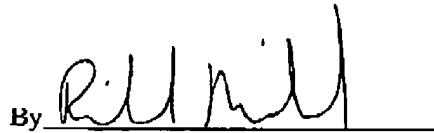
Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. In view of the foregoing points, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application, remove the objections and rejections, and allow the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

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Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment. If any charges are in fact incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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